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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,858	08/20/2001	Joshua R. Buesseler	109909-129577	7444

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SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.
PACWEST CENTER, SUITES 1600-1900
1211 SW FIFTH AVENUE
PORTLAND, OR 97204

EXAMINER

LE, LANA N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2685

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/933,858

Applicant(s)

BUESSELER ET AL.

Examiner

Lana Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31-41 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Objections***

Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 9 depends on claim 9, it should be dependent on claim 8. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 29 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim, claim 27. They are duplicate claims. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

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1. Claims 1-2, 26-29 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. D470,135S. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the interchangeable cover to be placed over a mobile phone that is shown and described in figs. 1-7 of claim 1 of prior art reference # US D470,135 S has the same U-shaped feature used to cover a mobile phone's front, side, and back that is described in the present application claim 1, except for a resilient semi-rigid shell which is not described in the claim 1 of US D470,135 S but appears to be a hard shell according to the figure 1 shown and would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in which the material used to cover the phone can be made of any kind of well-known material and its elasticity, i.e. rubber, plastic, metal, etc. which would not be considered an essential or necessary part of the claimed invention to be practiced with this specific detail of well-known material used for it to be considered novel to one of ordinary skill in the art and therefore can be omitted without affecting the claimed invention.

The two-way obviousness double patenting rejection in which claim 1 of the prior art D470,135S claim an ornamental aspect or design can be any type of broad and various kinds of ornamental design in which the ornament can be a decorative shape as shown in fig. 1 or to ornament with molding of the contour of the interchangeable cover to fit the mobile phone via a U-shaped profile to cover a front, side, and back as shown and described in figs. 1-7 of the prior art

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reference. Claim 1 of the prior art reference specifically said the cover "as shown and described" in which the figures shown can represent the description of the similar features claimed in words to describe the U-shaped profile in claim 1 of the present application. The "interchangeable cover for a mobile phone" claimed in claim 1 of the prior art reference D470,135 S would be able to function as a cover or in other words a cover is defined as an outer layer/wrapper for protection of an object/device, utilized to overlay or appear here and there on the surface of the object/device. Therefore, when it is assembled over the mobile device as claimed in claim 1 of the present application, the cover claimed in claim 1 of the prior art reference would act or be utilized as an outer layer/wrapper when it is placed/overlayed over the mobile device as in the definition of a cover. In conclusion, the ornamental and utility aspect of claim 1 of the prior art reference reads onto claim 1 of the present application and would not be considered patentably distinct from each other.

Regarding claim 1, Buessler et al discloses an interchangeable cover (fig. 1) for a mobile communications device comprising:

a front face and back face commonly connected to a side portion and having a substantially U-shaped profile adapted to wrap around a substantial portion of a front, back and side of the mobile communications device upon assembly over the mobile communications device (claim 1 as shown and described in figures 1-7). Buessler et al didn't disclose: the cover comprises a resilient semi-rigid shell. However, the examiner takes official notice that the material used to make the cover of the mobile phone of Buessler can be made

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of any kind of well-known material, i.e. rubber, plastic, metal, semi-rigid shell, or any other alternative kind. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the cover shown in figs. 1-7 of Buesseler et al to have a resilient semi-rigid shell as one of many alternative materials in order to preferably choose a hard cover to better protect the phone from damage and deformation.

Regarding claim 2, Buesseler discloses the interchangeable cover of claim 1 for a mobile communications device comprising: wherein the resilient semi-rigid shell is adapted to be secured to the mobile communications device without any fasteners (see fig. 1; claim 1 "interchangeable cover"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to derive from the interchangeable cover of claim 1 that the cover fits over the phone perfectly and securely without the need for any screw or tightener.

Regarding claim 26, Buesseler discloses the interchangeable cover of claim 1 for a mobile communications device comprising: that the mobile device comprises a cellular phone (see fig 1, "mobile phone of claim 1").

Regarding claim 27, Buesseler discloses the interchangeable cover of claim 1 wherein Buesseler didn't specifically disclose the mobile communications device comprises a pocket PC. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the mobile phone of Buesseler et al with a pocket PC in order to fit any other alternative type of communication device that has the shape of a mobile phone with the interchangeable cover of claim 1 of Buesseler.

Regarding claim 28, Buesseler discloses the interchangeable cover of claim 1 wherein Buesseler didn't specifically disclose the mobile communications device comprises a two-way pager. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the mobile phone of Buesseler et al with a two-way pager in order to fit any other alternative type of communication device that has the shape of a mobile phone with the interchangeable cover of claim 1 of Buesseler.

Regarding claim 29, Buesseler discloses the interchangeable cover of claim 1 wherein Buesseler didn't specifically disclose the mobile communications device comprises a pocket PC. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the mobile phone of Buesseler et al with a pocket PC in order to fit any other alternative type of communication device that has the shape of a mobile phone with the interchangeable cover of claim 1 of Buesseler.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Claims 3-25, and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
4. Claims 31-41 are allowable over the cited prior art.

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Regarding independent claims 31 and 40, the cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention for the remarks and amendments made in applicant's remarks, paper #5.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Wakefield (US 6,189,755), Combination Cup and Cellular phone Holder.

-Sarff (Des 316,999), Holder for a Cellular Telephone.

-Sheldrake (Des. 321,885), Holder for a Portable telephone handset.

-Moore, IV et al (US 5,174,483), Radiowrap.

-Engstrom et al (US 2003/0104791), Adding Peripherals to Mobile Device via Smart Interchangeable Cover.

-Ditzig et al (US 5,173,936), Telephone Handset Holder Assembly.

-Buonaiuto et al (US 5,653,336), Cellular Phone Carrying Device.

-Lind (US 6,367,672), Cellular Phone Holder.

-Cykiert (US 5,444,866), Device for Shielding a Cellular Telephone User from Electromagnetic Waves.

-Locke (US 2003/0,003,864), Cover for a Mobile Telephone Handset.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lana Le whose telephone number is (703) 308-5836. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

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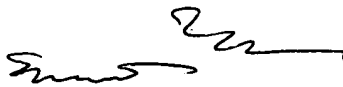
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban can be reached on (703) 305-4385. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9315 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.



Lana Le

December 15, 2003


EDWARD F. URBAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600